



# MISSISSIPPI STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE CHANEY  
State Fire Marshal

PRESS RELEASE

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **State Fire Marshal Says Test Smoke Alarms when Turning Clocks Forward for Daylight Saving Time**

Jackson, MS – Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney reminds Mississippians that there are two important things they need to do before turning in this Saturday night.

First, turn your clocks forward one hour. Sunday, March 12, at 2 a.m. is when we move clocks FORWARD one hour for Daylight Saving Time.

Second and more importantly, test your smoke alarm.

“A smoke alarm is one of the most important things needed in every home, and Daylight Saving Time is the perfect time to make sure yours is working properly,” Chaney said.

He added that, as the Mississippi State Fire Marshal’s Office has and continues to stress, working smoke alarms in a home can reduce your risk of dying in a fire by almost half. Of the fire deaths investigated in 2017 by the State Fire Marshal’s Office, over half did not have a working smoke alarm.

Roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms according to the National Fire Protection Association. When smoke alarms should have worked but failed to operate, it is usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead.

The Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office recommends the following smoke alarm safety tips.

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Replace the smoke alarm immediately if it doesn't respond properly when tested.
- Smoke alarms with nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, a warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms with any other type of battery, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

Follow the MID on Twitter - @MSInsuranceDept and on Facebook at Mississippi Insurance Department for more smoke alarm and fire safety tips.